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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(1 April-30 September 1995)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in pursuance of the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolutions 687 (1991), 689 (1991) and 806 (1993).

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION AND THE SITUATION IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

2. During the period under review, the situation in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) was calm. There were very few violations of the DMZ and those that occurred were minor, mainly overflights by unidentified aircraft. UNIKOM received six formal complaints: two from Iraq and four from Kuwait. None of these could be confirmed.

3. During the fishing season from May to July, Iraqi fishing boats were frequently observed operating close to the shore in Kuwaiti waters. After UNIKOM raised the issue with the Iraqi authorities, this activity diminished greatly.

4. The Kuwaiti authorities erected a barbed-wire fence running parallel to the trench and the berm from the coast to the Abdaly crossing.

5. UNIKOM monitored the DMZ from patrol and observation bases and observation points and through ground and air patrols. It also operated checkpoints and carried out investigations. It maintained liaison with the two sides at all levels. The deployment of UNIKOM is shown on the attached map.

6. UNIKOM continued to act in coordination with the authorities of Iraq and Kuwait in cases of unauthorized border crossings and when responding to requests to facilitate repatriation. The Mission also exchanged information and closely

cooperated on such matters with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

7. At the request of ICRC, UNIKOM provided the venue and support for meetings of the Technical Subcommittee on Military and Civilian Missing Prisoners of War and Mortal Remains on 29 and 30 August and 26 and 27 September 1995.

8. In my last report (S/1995/251, para. 14), I reported the apprehension and detention by the Iraqi authorities of two United States citizens who had mistakenly crossed the border on 13 March 1995. The two men were released on 16 July 1995.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

9. As of September 1995, the overall strength of UNIKOM was 1,331, as follows:

(a) 244 military observers from Argentina (7), Austria (7), Bangladesh (9), Canada (5), China (15), Denmark (6), Fiji (6), Finland (6), France (15), Ghana (6), Greece (7), Hungary (7), India (6), Indonesia (6), Ireland (7), Italy (6), Kenya (7), Malaysia (7), Nigeria (6), Pakistan (7), Poland (6), Romania (7), the Russian Federation (15), Senegal (6), Singapore (6), Sweden (6), Thailand (6), Turkey (6), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (15), the United States of America (15), Uruguay (6) and Venezuela (2);

(b) An infantry battalion of 775 from Bangladesh;

(c) An engineer unit of 50 from Argentina;

(d) A logistics unit of 35 from Denmark;

(e) 227 civilian staff, of whom 80 were recruited internationally.

Major-General Krishna N. S. Thapa (Nepal) continued as Force Commander.

10. UNIKOM was supported by a chartered helicopter and a chartered fixed-wing aircraft. The former is currently being replaced by a unit from Bangladesh.

11. Medical services were provided on a temporary basis by a contractor. Germany has now offered to provide a civilian medical unit. Germany would thus become a new contributor to UNIKOM. I propose to accept this offer, with the concurrence of the Security Council.

12. The headquarters of UNIKOM remains in Umm Qasr. The Mission also maintains liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City. The latter was moved in March and is now collocated with UNIKOM's support centre in Kuwait City.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

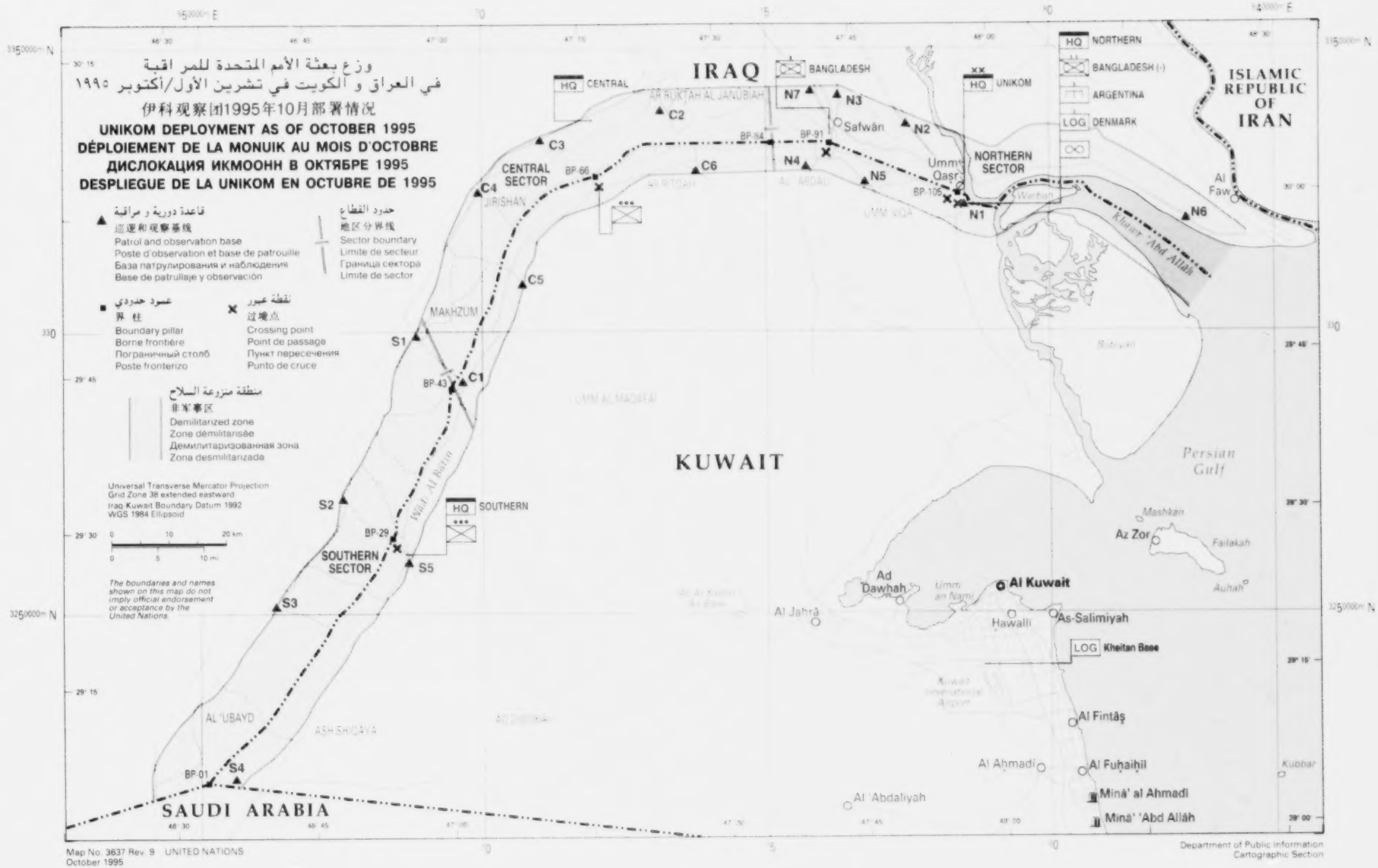
13. The General Assembly, by its resolution 49/245 of 12 July 1995, authorized me to enter into commitments for the period ending 30 June 1996 in the amount of $1,811,900 gross ($1,594,100 net) per month, equivalent to one third of the maintenance of UNIKOM, in addition to the two-thirds share of $3,188,100 per month to be met through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait. This authorization is subject to review by the Security Council with regard to the mandate of the Mission. Assessments on Member States have been made for the period ending 31 October 1995 and the Government of Kuwait has paid its voluntary contributions for the period ending 31 October 1995.

14. As at 22 September 1995, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM for the period since the inception of the Mission amounted to $37,283,547. The total unpaid assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations amounted to $2.4 billion.

V. OBSERVATIONS

15. During the period under review, the Iraq-Kuwait border and the DMZ have been generally calm. Through its presence and activities, UNIKOM continued to contribute significantly to the calm that prevailed in the area of operation. In carrying out its tasks, UNIKOM enjoyed the effective cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. I recommend that the Mission be maintained.

16. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major-General Thapa and the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.



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